THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The number of stelizations done in the country during the last two years (1989-90 and 1990-91 are 4.18 millions and 4.12 millions (provisional) respectively.

(b) In order to check the increasing birth rate in the country, a number of new initiatives have been taken to impart a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme. In this context a draft Action Plan has been evolved in consultation with the State Governments/Union Territories Administration. The draft Action Plan is directed towards improvement of the quality and outreach of health and family welfare services, expansion of the programmes for mother and child health care, better inter-sectrol coordination, meaningful information, education and communication effort, greater participation of the people in the Family Welfare Programmes and evolving a national consensus for imparting a new momentum to population control efforts. The draft Action Plan is being further examined by the State Governments/Union Territories Administration and other concerned departments of the Governments for possible improvements before it is finalised and put to implementation.

(c) There is no proposal at present to enact a law to check the birth rate in the country.

Anti-pollution measures in the Metropolitan cities of the country

57. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to make all the Metropolitan Cities of the Country free from pollution; and

(b) what action is taken by Government against the vehicle Owners for violating the anti-pollution measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The steps taken by the Government to control pollution in Metropolitan Cities include the following:

(1) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(2) Ambient air quality standards have been envoled.

(3) A net work of ambient air and water quality monitoring stations has been set up.

(4) Metropolitan Cities have been notified as Air Pollution Control Areas.

(5) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(6) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits.

(7) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(8) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent/emission standards by 31-12-91.

(9) Schemes for construction/augmentation of sewage and drainage system and for treatment of sewage have been taken up. Such

schemes have been taken up in Calcutta under the Ganga Action Plan of the Central Government.

(10) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

(11) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from conjested areas.

(12) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards with effect from 1st March, 1990.

(13) Public awareness campaigns have been launched about vehicular pollution.

(b) Prosecution have been launched by the respective State Transport Directorates against the vehicle owners for violation of vehicular emission standards under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. In addition, certificates of fitness|pollution control certificates of polluting vehicles are cancelled and their owners are instructed to comply with the prescribed standards, before issue of fresh certificates.

Welfare organisation of Railway employees

58. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the largest welfare organisation, registered under the Societies Registration Act, to look after the welfare of Railway employees and their families; and

(b) what assistance Government are providing to such organisations to fulfil the mission of providing social and Welfare services to railway employees alongwith the objects for which the assistance has been provided, giving details organisation-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Railway administration had sponsored the registration of a Society for the welfare of Railway employees, namely, Indian Railway Welfare Organisation. This Organisation has been given financial assistance as detailed below, mainly to act as 'Seed Money'.

(i) Grant of Rs. 5 lakh in 1989-90.

(ii) Grant of Rs. 22.5 lakh in 1990-91.

(iii) Loan of Rs. 3.0 crore by Ministry of Finance in 1989-90.

(iv) Grant of Rs. 10 crore in 1990-91 by Ministry of Railways. In addition, office accomodation at Delhi, Bombay, Madras Hyderabad, Calcutta and Gorakhpur has been provided at nominal rent.

The main objective of Indian Railway Welfare Organisation is to provide houses to serving and retired railway employees at "no-profit no-loss' basis.

As regards the various other societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, to look after the welfare of Railway employees and their families, the details would be available with the respective Registrars.

Flag Station between Shahganj and Azamgarh railway stations

59. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khurason Road and Fariha railway station stations